

LOCH LOMOND, JUNE 2012

A group of 7 members of Surrey County Walkers spent a week walking in the Loch Lomond area and visiting local sights. We travelled overnight by sleeper to Glasgow, arriving on the morning of Monday 4th June in Arrochar, an attractive village at the head of Loch Long,



which is about 2 miles west of Loch Lomond. The area has a mild, wet climate in which rhododendrons flourish, as in this garden in Arrochar.



Members stayed in guest houses or in a local hotel.

After arrival on the Monday morning, the group walked to Tarbet on Loch Lomond, from which fine views of the loch were obtained,



including views across the loch to Ben Lomond.



In the afternoon, the group walked beside Loch Lomond and were rewarded with views back up the loch.



At one point, beside a small beach, a piper was playing.

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The next day (Tuesday), the group walked to Tarbet to take the boat



deciduous woods



across Loch Lomond to Rowardennan to walk a stretch of the West Highland Way to Inversnaid. The walk was quite hilly but views across the loch were obtained



and in open country



The group walked through pine woods,



Bluebells were still out in early June in Scotland.

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After returning by train, the group walked back to Arrochar from the station through the woods. This short walk was surprisingly hilly.

The walk ended at the Inversnaid Hotel.



with a ferry ride back to Tarbet.

After 2 days' walking, the group decided on the Wednesday on a day out to visit the pumped storage hydro-electric power station at Cruachan on Loch Awe by the Pass of Brander, which was reached by a train ride from Arrochar and Tarbet station to Falls of Cruachan.



The walk passed a carved statue



and provided good views across Loch Long to Ben Arthur ('The Cobbler')

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Lomond on the ferry to Balmaha.



and back to Arrochar.



This provided views of the southern end of Loch Lomond, which contains several islands.



The next day (Thursday), the group travelled by bus to Inverary, to visit the village and particularly the castle, the home of the dukes of Argyll.



This walk was also quite hilly. The walk passed a field with highland cattle.



On the Friday, the group then walked another stage of the West Highland Way by taking the bus to Luss and crossing Loch

This walk ended at the youth hostel at

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Rowardennan.



The return gave us good views over Arrochar.



The ferry took us back from Rowardennan to Tarbet.



On the Sunday, we returned to Glasgow, spent a day there travelling around on the tourist bus, visiting the botanic garden and the Kelvingrove art gallery and museum before returning overnight to London by sleeper.

The final walking day (Saturday) was spent walking up Glen Loin, north of Arrochar. This was a whole day's walk, with the outward section steeply uphill.

